

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10290 201552Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----130681 210007Z /65
R 201400Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4848

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10290

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PFOR, IN
SUBJECT: LESSONS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: STATE 168373

1. THE PRESIDENT'S MOST RECENT LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER DESAI RAISES THE POSSIBILITY OF AMERICANS GAINING FROM INDIA'S EXPERIENCE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT. IN CASE THE GOI RESPONDS FAVORABLY TO THIS INITIATIVE, AS WOULD SEEM LIKELY, CAN WE HAVE MORE SPECIFIC INDICATIONS OF WHAT WASHINGTON HAS IN MIND? WHAT SORT OF TEAM OR TEAMS MIGHT COME TO INDIA? DO WE ENVISION A SERIES OF SEMINARS OR CONFERENCES? COULD THIS BE A SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL PROGRAM OR SOMEHOW OTHERWISE SET OFF FROM THE SENSITIVITIES OF BILATERAL AID?

2. IT MIGHT OF COURSE BE PREFERABLE AND AN INTERESTING INNOVATION FOR US TO PUT IT TO THE INDIANS TO CONCEIVE AND PROPOSE A PROGRAM THAT THEY THINK WOULD BE TO OUR BENEFIT. EVEN SO, IT WOULD HELP US IN THE EMBASSY TO HAVE SOME SENSE OF WHAT SORT OF FUNDING WE ARE PREPARED TO COMMIT, OVER WHAT PERIOD OF TIME, AND IN WHAT PARTICULAR ASPECTS OF INDIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT THERE EXISTS THE MOST CURIOSITY AT HOME.

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3. I AM ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE. MY SUBCOMMISSION EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, MAKES ME SOMEWHAT LEERY OF OUR OPENING INITIATIVES WITHOUT SOME HARD PRELIMINARY THINKING ON QUESTIONS OF SCALE, DURATION, FOLLOW-UP, AND FUNDING.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RURAL AREAS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE10290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770258-0714
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770738/aaaabgso.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 091e0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 168373
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1804277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LESSONS IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: PFOR, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/091e0467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009